



NRCS Species for Plant Collections 2009

Bouteloua curtipendula

Scientific Name: *Bouteloua curtipendula* (Michx.) Torr.

Common Name: sideoats grama



Photo By: Colorado State University Seed Programs



Photo by USDA NRCS

Morphological Characteristics:



- native, perennial
- warm season grass
- occurs across the tall grass prairie region of north Texas
- semi-rhizomes
- plant height 12-20 inches
- leaf blade 4 to 8 inches long, flat, hair along edge
- seedheads have 35 to 50 spikes along one side of a slender zigzag rachis, normally have 5 to 8 spikelets that resemble oats
- best adapted to well drained uplands, shallow ridges and rocky slopes
- adapted to calcareous and moderately alkaline soils
- begins growth in early spring and will continue to grow up until the first killing frost
- plants will turn reddish brown during fall and into winter
- seed is produced throughout the summer and into fall

Photo courtesy of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 342 Critical Area Planting; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting. The planting of sideoats grama can provide excellent food and cover benefits for wildlife and livestock as well as help conserve our soil. In South Texas there is a need for locally adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in revegetation projects. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps supports this effort and the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

Centers Requesting Seed:

E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
(Only from coastal Counties in the PMC coverage area)

How to Collect Seed:

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or www.wildflower.org
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, and GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
3409 N FM 1355
Kingsville, TX 78363

Helpful Tips:

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

Other Photos:



Photos courtesy of: Lady
Bird Johnson Wildflower
Center

